



Public attitude to child adoption in Ikere local government area, Ekiti state, Nigeria

Gabriel Olusola OWAGBEMI

Department of Sociology, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria; Email: angel.gabreal@yahoo.com

Article History

Received: 19 January 2020

Reviewed: 20/January/2020 to 02/ March/2020

Accepted: 04 March 2020

Prepared: 07 March 2020

Published: April 2020

Citation

Gabriel Olusola OWAGBEMI. Public attitude to child adoption in Ikere local government area, Ekiti state, Nigeria. *Discovery*, 2020, 56(292), 176-185

Publication License



© The Author(s) 2020. Open Access. This article is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

General Note



Article is recommended to print as color digital version in recycled paper.

ABSTRACT

The study investigates the attitude of Ekiti people towards child adoption, what inform their attitude and the challenges associated with it. The researcher adopted quantitative method of data collection to elicit information from 150 respondents who were randomly selected from Ikere local government area, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The quantitative data collected was analysed using descriptive technique. The following were the identified factors predisposing their attitude: information about some adoptees doing some terrible things in the families of their adopters; child adoption relieves childless couples of the pain and agony of childlessness; child adoption reduces the pressure from the parents of childless married couples on the demand for grandchildren; public stigmatization prevents childless couples from going for adoption; most members of the couples families do not see the adoptee as part of their family. The formulated hypothesis revealed that gender [$r(148) = 0.08$, $p > .05$], age [$r(148) = -0.06$, $p > .05$], religion [$r(148) = 0.01$, $p > .05$], educational qualification [$r(148) = -0.06$, $p > .05$], and marital status [$r(148) = -0.03$, $p > .05$] had no significant relationship with attitude towards child adoption.. The following recommendations are made:(i) the adopters should take the adoptees as their children and do everything possible to inculcate good character into them. (ii) adoption should be given legal

backing to reduce stigmatisation and safeguard the rights of adoptees and the adopters: there should be public enlightenment on child adoption in Ekiti State.

Keywords: child adoption, adoptee, adopter, attitude, stigmatisation

1. INTRODUCTION

Adoption has been viewed as a highly successful societal solution for the problems confronting childless couples who over the years have made several attempts to have children, and at the same time brought succor to children whose biological parents could not or would not provide for (Wegar, 2000; Archard and Skivenes, 2009; Cantwell, 2014) Furthermore, adoptees do significantly better than those children who are reared by biological parents who are ambivalent about caring for them or, in fact, do not want them (Zosky, Howard, Smith & Howard, 2005; Bick & Dozier, 2013; Wieder, 1978).

Presently, it seems our society has now developed a tradition of viewing adoption as a solution, not only for children needing permanent homes, but also for infertile couples who want to be parents (Baltimore, 2008; Malm, Vandivere & McKlindon, 2011), yet some members of the public still have difficulty accepting adoption as the possible solution to the challenges related to childlessness among the married couples and also the abandoned children who need a permanent homes (Wegar, 2000; Versluis-den Bieman & Verhulst, 1995; Tajudeen, 2013).

The acceptance of adoption as an alternative to child bearing seems to be low among the rural dwellers in Nigeria; this is due to some of the challenges associated with adopted children, the societal perception of adoption and the experience of the adopters on the adoptees.

The place of children in African homes cannot be over-emphasised (Fasoranti, & Owagbemi, 2012; Owagbemi & Aruna, 2018). That is why people strongly believe that one of the reasons for contracting marriage is procreation. Most times, this expectation becomes unrealistic due to factors such as health challenges either from the husband or the wife. The inability to conceive is mostly attributed to women in most rural communities in Africa. Therefore, when there is a delay in child bearing the attention is shifted to women and pressure is always asserted on them. This could range from attack from the husbands' family members, attack from the husband's friends and even attack from the community where the couple reside, these attacks which is always persistent do make life unpleasant for women who experience difficulty in early child bearing.

Most marriages in African have been dissolved due to inability of couples to have children of their own, most couples are staying together but yet unhappy because their homes are not blessed with children (Isiugo-Abanihe, 1998; Okunola, 2002; Adegoke, 2010). The effect of childlessness on marriages and home cut across ethnic groups, religion and social background in Nigeria (Osiki 2000; Okunola, 2002). This is because children are seeing as part of God's blessings and its absence makes everyone uncomfortable.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Childlessness has become a social problem in Nigeria and this can be linked to other social challenges such as tendency to commit suicide on the part of infertile women, women having extra marital affairs in the process of having a child at all cost and this has led to death either on the woman side or both husband and wife. There are popular adages in Yoruba which stress the importance of children in a family. Few among these are '*Olomo lo laye*' '*he who has a child owns the world*' '*Ojo a ba ku, ono lo n dele deni*' '*on death, it is child that takes care of one*' '*Omo ya jowo*' '*a child is better than wealth*'. Because of this strong belief on the necessity to have a child, everyone who is into marriage looks forward for conception, likewise people around. The cultural importance and high expectation attach to conception and child bearing has not really changed the fact that so many homes are without children due to the inability of the couple to conceive.

The desire to have a family and also to sustain it among the couples, necessitate the need to provide an alternative way through which the infertile women can still live a meaningful life despite their inability to bear a child. This can be achieved if adoption is accepted among the people.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study seeks among other things to investigate the attitude of Ekiti people towards child adoption; to ascertain what inform their attitude towards child adoption; it examines the challenges associated with child adoption in Ikere local government area; and, ascertains the relief that can be derived through adoption.

4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

4.1. Theory of Perception and Attitude

Theory of Perception and Attitude formation was adopted for this study. Perception and Attitudes are hypothetical constructs that refer to an individual's evaluation of, or orientation towards an object (i.e. things idea, person, group, action, self etc). Perceptions are typically said to comprise three components cognition (knowledge and beliefs), affect (emotion response), and behaviour (past and current behaviour response). The three components have also been ascribed to risk perceptions as a particular form of attitude (Lorenzoni, Nicholson-cole and Whitmarsh, 2007). Perceptions form as a results of direct experience with the object or through second-hand (mediated) information about the, former tending to result in stronger and more consistent attitudes than the later (Fazio and Zanna, 1981).

Perception may be said to have a particular intensity and direction: that is, people may hold a strong or weak opinion, which may be positive or negative attitudes. Perceptions strength may be determined by a range of factors, such as certainty, ambivalence, confidence, involvement, importance, emotional intensity and underlying values (Maio, Olson, Allen, 2001).

According to the well-established elaboration Likelihood Model (Petty and Cacioppo, 1986), there are two routes through which individuals may be persuaded: core (superficial) and peripheral (systematic). Often, perceptions will be influenced through 'snap judgments' based on heuristics, such as whether the communicator is attractive, expert or familiar; or even through the 'mere exposure effect' of being frequently exposed to the attitudinal object. In other cases, when individuals are sufficiently motivated to engage with the issue, attitudes will be informed through mere considered deliberation of the arguments prescribed, and this case, attitude tend to be more resistant to change, than in the case of superficial processing. In general, messages that conform to an individual's motivations and level of interest are more persuasive (Smith and Mackie, 2007)

The attitude of the Ikere Ekiti people to adoption was formed through years of interaction with adoptees and adopters, and also based on the information they have gathered about adoption. Over the years, these people have been able to attend to cases of adoption, and this has made them to form different perception about adoption which has also informed their attitude towards it.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative method of research was employed to elicit information from the respondents who were randomly selected from Ikere Local Government Area, Ekiti State, Nigeria. Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted to select three quarters from the existing six quarters in Ikere Ekiti. The selected quarters are: Oke Ikere, Anaye and Iro. The justification for the selection of these quarters is predicated upon the fact that these quarters have a good number of indigenous people of Ekiti, unlike others where there is high level of infiltration of the non-indigenes. At the second stage, two streets were purposively selected from each of the quarters.

The sample size for this study is one hundred and fifty (150) respondents who were randomly selected from the three purposively selected quarters in Ikere LGA. Questionnaire Schedule was employed in data-collection. The questionnaire was divided into sections based on the objectives of the study. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive techniques, involving, tabulations, cross-tabulations, means, simple frequencies, and percentages, it also involved Chi-square analysis.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sourced research data via questionnaires was analyzed, presented and interpreted within this section. Frequency count and percentage summary were used to analyse the respondents' social demographic characteristics. Frequency count, percentage summary and chi square analysis were conducted to analyze the research questions raised, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis was adopted to test the formulated hypotheses. All analyses were summarized and presented in tables below.

Indicated in Table 1 above were the respondents' social demographic characteristics. The gender distribution was such that larger percentage of the respondents (50.7%) were males, while 49.3% of them were females. However, the gender distribution indicated that both gender groups were duly considered. On the age category, 22.7% of the respondents were within the age ranges of 20 and 30 years, 36.7% of them were aged between 31 and 41 years, 26% were within the age ranges of 42 and 52 years of age, while 14.7% of them were 53 years of age and above. The respondents' religious affiliation indicated that larger percentage of the respondents (56%) were Christians, and 37.3% of them were Muslims, meanwhile a limited percentage of them (6.7%) were traditionalist. The distribution of the respondents' educational qualification revealed that very few of them (2.7%) said that they were primary school certificate holders, and 31.3% of them were secondary school certificate holders, while majority of them (66%) had certification from divers' tertiary institutions.

Table 1 Frequency Distribution showing Respondents' Social Demographic Characteristics

Factors	Options	Frequency	%
Gender	Male	74	49.3
	Female	76	50.7
	Total	150	100.0
Age	20-30 Years	34	22.7
	31-41 Years	55	36.7
	42-52 Years	39	26.0
	53 Years and Above	22	14.7
	Total	150	100.0
Religion	Christianity	84	56.0
	Islamic	56	37.3
	Traditionalist	10	6.7
	Total	150	100.0
Educational Qualification	Primary School Education	4	2.7
	Secondary School Education	47	31.3
	Tertiary Education	99	66.0
	Total	150	100.0
Marital Status	Single	24	16.0
	Married	98	65.3
	Divorced	18	12.0
	Separated	10	6.7
	Total	150	100.0
Employment Status	Unemployed	24	16.0
	Self Employed	68	45.3
	Employed	58	38.7
	Total	150	100.0

On the bases of the respondents marital status, 16% were single, a good number of them (65.3%) were married, and 12% of them were divorced, while 6.7% were separated. Lastly, on the respondents social demographic characteristics was the respondents employment status and it was indicated that 16% of them were unemployed, reasonable percentage of them (45.3%) were self-employed, while 38.7% of them were employed in different establishment.

6.1. Analyses on Research Questions

Research Question 1: What is the attitude of people towards child adoption in Ikere Local Government Area, Ekiti-State?

The test on statements showing the attitude of people towards child adoption in Ikere Ekiti was displayed in Table 2. Nearly all the respondents (91.3%) were in support of the opinion that taking a step towards child adoption will serves a good purpose to self and the society, though 2.7% of them were equivocal, while a limited percentage of them (6%) gave a contrary opinion. Similarly, larger percentage of the respondents (85.4%) were of the view that adopting a child when childless will ward off the agony of childlessness, 2% of them were not specific in decision, while 12.6% had a contrary view.

In a different perception, a reasonable percentage of the respondents (60.7%) were of the thought that adopted children misbehave when they grew up, 8.7% of them were indifferent, while 30.6% of them thought differently. In addition, a good number of the respondents (56.6%) felt that adopted children are not dependable because they are not ones biological children, 6.7% of them were neither in support nor against this assumption, meanwhile 36.7% of them felt contrary.

It was the opinion of a large number of the respondents (60%) that they can never advise anyone to go for adoption, and 2.7% of them were equivocal, meanwhile 37.3% of them were of a contrary opinion. The statement that child adoption should be culturally forbidden was supported by 49.3% of the respondents, 16% of them were indifferent in their opinion, while 34.7% of them

were deposed to this opinion. Lastly, 50.7% of the respondents agreed that most adopted children may bring sicknesses or deceases that are not in one's family lineage before to the family, 12.7% neither agreed nor disagreed with this impression, while 36.6% of them disagreed.

Table 2 Chi square and Frequency summary on statements regarding the attitude of people towards child adoption in Ikere Ekiti

Items		Response					Total
		SA	A	U	D	SD	
Taking a step towards child adoption will serves a good purpose to self and the society	F	104	33	4	4	5	150
	%	69.3	22.0	2.7	2.7	3.3	100.0
Adopting a child when childless will ward of the agony of childlessness	F	79	49	3	14	5	150
	%	52.7	32.7	2.0	9.3	3.3	100.0
® Adopted children misbehave when they grew up	F	31	60	13	28	18	150
	%	20.7	40.0	8.7	18.6	12.0	100.0
® Adopted children are not dependable because they are not ones biological children	F	41	44	10	36	19	150
	%	27.3	29.3	6.7	24.0	12.7	100.0
® I can never advise anyone to go for adoption	F	44	46	4	34	22	150
	%	29.3	30.7	2.7	22.6	14.7	100.0
® Child adoption should be culturally forbidden	F	32	42	24	31	21	150
	%	21.3	28.0	16.0	20.7	14.0	100.0
® Most adopted children may bring sicknesses or deceases that are not in one's family lineage before to the family	F	33	43	19	26	29	150
	%	22.0	28.7	12.7	17.3	19.3	100.0
Averaged Total	F	42	34	11	36	27	150
	%	28.0	22.7	7.3	24.0	18.0	100.0
Chi Square	X ²	18.867					
	Df	4					
	P	< .05					

Note: ® items is reversed for average summary

On the average, a good number of the respondents (51.4%) with consenting responses indicated that residents of Ikere Ekiti were in support of child adoption. This shows a positive attitude towards child's adoption, and it was such that 28% of the respondents strongly agreed, 22.7% agreed, though 7.3% of them were equivocal in their opinion, 24% of them disagreed, while 18% strongly disagreed.

To further confirm this result was that chi square value of 18.867, df of 4 and a p value that was less than 0.05 level of significance. This showed that the variation in the result was valid for further conclusion. Therefore it could be affirmed that people residing in Ikere Ekiti had positive attitude towards child adoption, especially with the childless families; although, they still perceived negativity with such children.

Research Question 2: What are the factors stimulating negative attitude towards child adoption in people in Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State?

Table 3 showed the factors stimulating negative attitude towards child adoption in people in Ikere Ekiti. It was observed from the responses that majority of the respondents (78%) affirmed that they have heard that adopted children do some terrible things in the family of those who adopt them, 4.7% of them were indifferent, meanwhile 17.3% of them thought otherwise. Larger percentage of the respondents (74.6%) were of the perception that the behavior of children adopted are always different from their parents and biological children, 3.4% of them were equivocal in their opinion, while 22% gave a contrary perception.

The statement that 'people who adopt children most times don't give good testimonies of the adopted child' was supported by 46% of the respondents, 4.6% of them did not agree nor disagree with this assumption, meanwhile 49.4% of them were of a refuting impression. On a similar note, 44% of the respondents agreed that adopted children that they knew later misbehaved seriously, limited number of the respondents (1.3%) were equivocal, while larger percentage of them (54.7%) disagreed. Lastly, a good number

of the respondents (57.3%) were of the view that they have seen an adopted child that confessed to have caused havoc to the family of foster parents after they knew they were adopted, 8.7% of them were not specific in their opinion, while 34% gave a contrary opinion.

Table 3 Chi square and Frequency summary on statement regarding the factors stimulating negative attitude towards child adoption in people in Ikere Ekiti

Items		Response					Total
		SA	A	U	D	SD	
Have heard that adopted children do some terrible things in the family of those who adopt them	F	57	60	7	23	3	150
	%	38.0	40.0	4.7	15.3	2.0	100.0
The behavior of children adopted are always different from the parent and biological children	F	44	68	5	27	6	150
	%	29.3	45.3	3.3	18.0	4.0	100.0
People who adopt children don't most time have good testimonies of the adopted child	F	21	48	7	55	19	150
	%	14.0	32.0	4.6	36.7	12.7	100.0
The adopted child you knew later misbehaved seriously	F	18	48	2	63	19	150
	%	12.0	32.0	1.3	42.0	12.7	100.0
I have seen an adopted child confessed to cause havoc to the family of foster parent after they knew they were adopted and not a true biological child	F	33	53	13	37	14	150
	%	22.0	35.3	8.7	24.7	9.3	100.0
Averaged Total	F	35	55	7	41	12	150
	%	23.3	36.7	4.7	27.3	8.0	100.0
Chi Square	X ²	54.133					
	df	4					
	p	< .05					

The average summary indicated that a reasonable number of the respondents (60%) confirmed that the identified above are factors predisposing the attitude towards child adoption among people in Ikere Ekiti. This was such that 23.3% of the respondents strongly agreed, 36.7% of them agreed, 4.7% were neither in support nor against this assumption, 27.3% of them disagreed, while 8% strongly disagreed.

The X² value of 54.133, df of 4 and a p value less than 0.05 level of significance justified that the observed difference in frequencies were valid for further conclusion. It could thus be affirmed that the identified factors are factors predisposing the attitude of people toward child adoption in Ikere Ekiti.

Research Question 3: What are the benefits of child adoption to childless couples?

The result in Table 4 showed the benefits of child adoption to childless couples. A large percentage of the respondents (72%) affirmed that child adoption relieves childless couples the pain and agony of childlessness, 2% of them were indifferent, while 26% of them thought otherwise. Majority of the respondents (82%) agreed that child adoption reduces the pressure from the parents of married couples on the demand for grandchildren in most times, 4% of them were equivocal in response, while 14% of them disagreed. Reasonable percentage of the respondents (60%) consented with the statement that adopted children most times covers the felt gap of biological children in the family of married childless couples, 11.3% of them were neither in support nor against this assumption, meanwhile 28.7% of them report differently.

The statement that child adoption may be the end result and final solution to childlessness among married childless couples was supported by 61.3% of the respondents, 10.7% of them were not specific in their opinion, while 28% of them were of a deposing opinion. Lastly, similar percentage (61.3%) of the respondents were of the view that an adopted child also bears the name of the foster childless parent, thus, encourages paternal continuity, 10% of them were equivocal, while 28.7% had contrary view.

It was indicated in the average summary that a good number of the respondents (68%) gave consent with the view that child adoption is very beneficial to the marriage of childless couples. This was such that 32.7% of them strongly agreed with the statements above, and 35.3% of them agreed, though 7.3% of them were not specific in their opinion, 16% of them disagreed, while

8.7% of them strongly disagreed. The χ^2 value of 52.533, df of 4 and a p value less than 0.05 level of significant indicated that the difference in the observed frequencies were valid for further conclusion. It could thus be summated that the identified above are the benefits of child adoption to the marriage of childless couples in Ikere Ekiti.

Table 4 Chi Square and Frequency summary on statements regarding the benefits of child adoption to childless couples

Items		Response					Total
		SA	A	U	D	SD	
Child adoption reliefs childless couples the pain and agony of childlessness	F	55	53	3	30	9	150
	%	36.7	35.3	2.0	20.0	6.0	100.0
Child adoption most times reduce the pressure from the parents of married couples on the demand for a grand child	F	56	67	6	15	6	150
	%	37.3	44.7	4.0	10.0	4.0	100.0
Adopted children most times covers the felt gap of biological children in the family of married childless couples	F	45	45	17	29	14	150
	%	30.0	30.0	11.3	19.4	9.3	100.0
Child adoption may be the end result and final solution to childlessness among married childless couples	F	42	50	16	25	17	150
	%	28.0	33.3	10.7	16.7	11.3	100.0
An adopted child also bears the name of the foster childless parent, this then encourage paternal continuity	F	44	48	15	23	20	150
	%	29.3	32.0	10.0	15.4	13.3	100.0
Averaged Total	F	49	53	11	24	13	150
	%	32.7	35.3	7.3	16.0	8.7	100.0
Chi Square	χ^2	52.533					
	df	4					
	p	< .05					

Research Question 4: What are the challenges attached to child adoption among people in Ikere Ekiti?

Table 5 Chi Square and Frequency summary on statements relating to the challenges attached to child adoption among people in Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State

Items		Response					Total
		SA	A	U	D	SD	
Most childless couples don't want to go for adoption because of the attached stigmatization	F	70	70	1	5	4	150
	%	46.7	46.7	0.7	3.3	2.7	100.0
People later in life revealed the true status of an adopted child to him or her	F	44	83	7	10	6	150
	%	29.3	55.3	4.7	6.7	4.0	100.0
An adopted child most times feel insecure in the midst of the extended family members of his foster parent	F	43	42	9	39	17	150
	%	28.7	28.0	6.0	26.0	11.3	100.0
The other members of the extended don't usually see an adopted child as part of their family especially when the childless couple later have a biological child	F	44	48	15	23	20	150
	%	29.3	32.0	10.0	15.3	13.3	100.0
One of the foster parent are always indifferent to the adopted child later in life for one reason or the other	F	22	25	17	59	27	150
	%	14.7	16.7	11.3	39.3	18.0	100.0
The public still very much depose the idea of adoption even when the family has one child already	F	27	60	21	25	17	150
	%	18.0	40.0	14.0	16.7	11.3	100.0

There's gender disparity in terms of adoption, because many times people go for the male child and not the female	F	27	46	22	32	23	150
	%	18.0	30.7	14.7	21.3	15.3	100.0
Averaged Total	F	40	53	14	28	15	150
	%	26.7	35.3	9.3	18.7	10.0	100.0
Chi Square	X ²	37.133					
	df	4					
	p	< .05					

The result in Table 5 showed the challenges attached to child adoption among people in Ikere Ekiti. Nearly all the respondents (93.4%) agreed that most childless couples don't want to go for adoption because of the attached stigmatization; limited number of them (0.7%) did not agree nor disagree with this statement, and however 5.9% of them disagreed. Majority of the respondents (84.6%) thought that people revealed the true status of an adopted child to him or her later in life, 4.7% of them were equivocal, while 10.7% of them thought differently. A good number of the respondents (56.7%) were of the view that an adopted child most times feel insecure in the midst of the extended family members of his foster parent, 6% of them were indifferent, while 37.3% gave a contrary view.

Reasonable numbers of the respondents (61.3%) were of the opinion that the other members of the extended family don't usually see an adopted child as part of their family especially when the childless couple later had a biological child, 10% were neither in support nor against this opinion, while 28.7% of them were of a contrary opinion. The statement that one of the foster parent are always indifferent to the adopted child later in life for one reason or the other was supported by 31.4% of the respondents, though 11.3% of them were equivocal, larger percentage of the respondents (57.3%) report contrarily. A good number of the respondents felt that the public depose the idea of adoption even when the family already has a child, 14% of them were indifferent, while 28% of them felt otherwise. Lastly, 48.7% of the respondents were in support of the idea that there's gender disparity in terms of adoption, because many times, people go for the male child and not the female, 9.3% of them were neither in support nor against this assumption, though 36.6% of them refuted this idea.

On the average, it was the view of 62% of the respondents that the above identified factors are challenges attached with child adoption among Ikere people in Ekiti State. This was such that 26.7% of them strongly agreed with the statement above and 35.3% of them agreed, 18.7% of them disagreed, while 10% of them strongly disagreed.

Further confirming this result was the chi square value of 37.133, df of 4 and a p value that was less than 0.05 level of significant. This showed that the variation in the result was valid for further conclusion. Therefore, it could be affirmed that the identified factors above are challenges impeding childless couples from taking steps for adoption in Ikere Ekiti.

6.2. Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between the respondents' biosocial characteristics and their attitude towards child adoption

Table 6 Correlation Matrix showing the relationship between bio-social characteristics and attitude towards child adoption

Variables	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Gender	-	-	1						
2. Age	2.33	0.99	-.05	1					
3. Religion	-	-	.08	-.03	1				
4. Educational Qualification	-	-	-.20*	.22*	-.00	1			
5. Marital Status	-	-	.16*	.50**	-.02	.09	1		
6. Employment Status	-	-	-.08	.36**	.03	.31**	.22**	1	
7. Attitude towards Adoption	18.21	2.97	.08	-.06	.01	-.06	-.03	-.29**	1

Note:**p < .01; *p < .05; N=150, Employment Status was coded: 1=Unemployed; 2= Self Employed; 3=Employed

The result indicating the relationship between the respondents biosocial characteristics and their attitude towards child adoption revealed that gender [$r(148) = 0.08$, $p > .05$], age [$r(148) = -0.06$, $p > .05$], religion [$r(148) = 0.01$, $p > .05$], educational qualification [$r(148) = -0.06$, $p > .05$], and marital status [$r(148) = -0.03$, $p > .05$] had no significant relationship with attitude towards child adoption. Employment status was significantly related with respondents' attitude towards child adoption [$r(148) = -0.29$, $p < .05$]. This implied that the people's employment status could determine the way at which they will be disposed in their attitude towards child adoption. This result negates the formulated null hypothesis 1 and it was therefore rejected.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between the respondents' biosocial characteristics and their perception of child adoption

Table 7 Correlation Matrix showing the relationship between the bio-social characteristics and their perception towards child adoption towards childless couple

Variables	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Gender	-	-	1						
2. Age	2.33	0.99	-.05	1					
3. Religion	-	-	.08	-.03	1				
4. Educational Qualification	-	-	-.20*	.22*	-.00	1			
5. Marital Status	-	-	.16*	.50**	-.02	.09	1		
6. Employment Status	-	-	-.08	.36**	.03	.31**	.22**	1	
7. Perception of child adoption towards childless couple	18.21	2.97	-.00	.06	.05	.08	.09	-.20*	1

Note: ** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$; N=150, Employment Status was coded: 1=Unemployed; 2= Self Employed; 3=Employed

The above result revealed the relationship between respondents' biosocial characteristics and their perception of child adoption towards childless couple. It was observed that gender [$r(148) = -0.00$, $p > .05$], age [$r(148) = 0.06$, $p > .05$], religion [$r(148) = 0.05$, $p > .05$], educational qualification [$r(148) = -0.08$, $p > .05$], and marital status [$r(148) = 0.09$, $p > .05$] had no significant relationship with the perception of people towards child adoption among childless couple. However, employment status was significantly related with their perception towards child adoption towards childless couple [$r(148) = -0.20$, $p < .05$]. This means that employment status of the people in Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State could determine the way at which they could perceive child adoption towards childless couple to be benefiting to marital childlessness. The result negates the formulated null hypothesis 2 and it was rejected.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results showed that most people residing in Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State had positive attitude towards child adoption, although, they still perceived negativity with such children (adoptees).. This was as a result of bad behaviors linked to some adoptees, their involvement in terrible acts such as witchcrafts; conniving with external forces to perpetrate evil within the family where they reside; revealing some confidential secrets of the adopters to people outside, some of which had caused serious havoc to adopters. These are some of the factors predisposing the attitude of people towards child adoption in Ikere, Ekiti. The study further revealed that reliefs of pain of being childless on the part of the adopters, reduction of pressure from the immediate family members, most especially the husband's family, encouragement of paternal continuity and putting an end to childlessness among couples are the benefits of child adoption to the marriage of childless couples in Ikere Ekiti. Sequel to the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were therefore made: (i) the adopters should take the adoptees as their children and do everything possible to inculcate good character into them (ii) there should be a proper legal backing on adoption to safeguard the rights of the adoptees and the adopters so as to save them from any embarrassment in future and so as to reduce stigmatisation among the public, (ii) the general public should be sensitised by the government at all levels through seminars and enlightenment campaign on the

advantages associated with adoption most especially for the childless couples and also for the members of the public so as to stop interfering into affairs of adoptees in adopters' homes.

REFERENCE

1. Adegoke, T.G. (2010), Socio-cultural factors as determinants of divorce rates among women of reproductive age in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria, *Stud Tribes Tribals*, 8(2): 107-114.
2. African Child Policy Forum (2012b). 'Final communiqué of the Fifth International Policy Conference on the African child', Addis Ababa, 29-30 May 2012. http://www.riatt-esa.org/sites/default/files/The_Addis_Ababa_Communique_on_Intercountry_Adoption_EN.pdf
3. Archard, D. and M. Skivenes (2009), Balancing a child's best interests and a child's views', *International Journal of Children's Rights*, 17(1): 1-21.
4. Alexandria L. Frye (2010) College students' perceptions of adoption, MSc Thesis in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the Graduate School of The University of Alabama
5. Balsari, S. (2010). 'Protecting the children of Haiti', New England, *Journal of Medicine*, 362(9).
6. Baltimore, D. L. (2008). "Understanding the concept of adoption: a qualitative analysis with adoptees and their parents". *Retrospective Theses and Dissertations*. 15288.
7. Bick, J., & Dozier, M. (2013). The effectiveness of an attachment-based intervention in promoting foster mothers' sensitivity toward foster infants. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 34(2), 95-103.
8. Boswell, S., & Cudmore, L. (2014). 'The children were fine': Acknowledging complex feelings in the move from foster care into adoption. *Adoption & Fostering*, 38(1), 5-21.
9. Cantwell, Nigel (2014). The best interests of the child in intercountry adoption, *innocenti insight*, Florence: UNICEF Office of Research.
10. Christoffersen, M.N. (2012). A study of adopted children, their environment, and development: A systematic review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 25, 78-180.
11. Fasoranti, O.O. & Owagbemi, G.O. (2012). Strains in family values in a Yoruba community: A study of families in Akoko land in Ondo State, Nigeria, *European Scientific Journal*, 8(26), 160-171.
12. Isiugo-Abanihe U. (1998). Stability of marital unions and fertility in Nigeria. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 30: 33-41.
13. Kerman, B., Wildfire, J., & Barth, R. P. (2002). Outcomes for young adults who experienced foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 24, 319-344.
14. Malm K, Vandivere S, McKlinton A. (2011a). Children adopted from foster care: Child and family characteristics, adoption motivation, and well-being. ASPE Research Brief. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Washington, DC. Published online at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/NSAP/Brief1/rb.shtml>
15. March, K., Miall, C. (2000). Adoption as a family form. *Fam. Relat.* 49,359-62.
16. Okunola, M.I. (2002). Separation and divorce. A Handbook for Nigerian Social Workers. Daybis Ltd., 77-80.
17. Osiki, J.O. (2000). Marital duration, age, and childlessness as they affect marital happiness. Nigeria, *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 1(1): 34-42.
18. Owagbemi, G.O & Aruna, J.O. (2018).. National development and the development of Yoruba family moral values. *Akungba Journal of Linguistics and Literatures*, 9(Special Edition), 348-358.
19. Tajudeen, O.I. (2013), Adoption Practice in Nigeria- an Overview, *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization*, 13, 7-13.
20. Versluis-den Bieman, H.J.M., & Verhulst, F.C. (1995). Self-reported and parent reported problems in adolescent international adoptees. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines*, 36, 1411-1428.
21. Wegar, K. (2000). Adoption, family ideology, and social stigma: bias in community attitudes, adoption research, and practice. *Family Relations*, 49, 363-370.
22. Wieder, H. (1978). On when and whether to disclose about adoption. *Journal of American Psychoanalytic Association*, 26, 793-811.
23. Zosky, D. L., Howard, J. A., Smith, S. L., & Howard, A. M. (2005). Investing in adoptive families: What adoptive families tell us regarding the benefits of adoption preservation services. *Adoption Quarterly*, 8(3).